

Father Gomez is a beloved guide and Shepherd to our community. From performing the last rights, to ministering to his flock, he is there to offer a helping hand and his prayers along the way. He has served our community with unwavering faith in the good of humankind. On behalf of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Councilman Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer, we would like to congratulate Father Gomez for his leadership, service, and guidance. We will miss him and his special blessing that he bestowed to me and my family. May the Lord continue to grant him wisdom and watch over him.

STAFF SERGEANT EDWARD D.
MILLS JR. REMEMBRANCE

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 2011, a hero from western Pennsylvania was lost in Afghanistan. Staff Sergeant Edward D. Mills Jr. was killed by a bomb planted by insurgents as he was serving bravely on his third overseas tour since joining the Army in 2005.

I, along with all Americans, am extremely grateful for his brave and honorable service in the United States Army during such an important period in our nation's history. Mills graduated from Union High School and is survived by his wife, Amanda Brenner and parents Edward Mills Sr. and Kathie Greenawalt from New Castle, Pennsylvania.

During his 6-year career as an infantryman, Staff Sergeant Mills received the Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Arrowhead Device, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal, Air Assault Badge, Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

He was an example of service, dedication, and the values that make western Pennsylvania and our country great. We will miss him dearly as a hero and asset to our community, and my thoughts and prayers go out to his family in New Castle.

TRIBUTE TO FRED HELMSING

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness to note the recent passing of Mr. Fred Helmsing, a prominent Mobilian and a distinguished south Alabama attorney who was much respected in our community. Mr. Helmsing passed away on July 9 at the age of 70.

A native of Mobile, Fred was a graduate of McGill Institute, Spring Hill College, the University of Alabama School of Law, and New York University. Upon completion of his education, he returned home to Mobile where he embarked upon a long and respected career as an attorney.

Over more than four decades in the legal profession, Mr. Helmsing rose to become the senior partner of one of Mobile's leading law firms, Helmsing, Leach, Herlong, Newman and Rouse. He was also active in many local civic and charitable organizations.

A noted jurist who specialized in complex civil and white-collar criminal litigation, Mr. Helmsing was a member of the Alabama Bar Association, the Florida Bar Association, the Mobile County Bar Association, the Litigation and Taxation Sections of the American Bar Association, and the Farrah Law Society. He was also a fellow in the America College of Trial Lawyers and the Alabama Law Foundation.

Known to his family and close friends as "Big Fred," Mr. Helmsing took great pleasure in the outdoors and conveyed his love of nature to others. He held a lifelong passion for travel and hunting and fishing and was fond of fly-fishing in the American West and shooting pheasants in England. He also spent much time at his hunting lodge in Monroe County, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, Mobile's legal community and, indeed, all of south Alabama lost a dear friend with Fred Helmsing's passing. I wish to extend my deepest condolences to his lovely wife of 42 years, Susan; their sons, Frederick and Guy; their daughter, Margaret; his mother, Gertrude; and his two brothers, sister and five grandchildren, as well as a long list of close friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers as, together, we honor the legacy of a truly good man and great friend.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF ABBY WAMBACH AND THE UNITED STATES WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Abby Wambach and the U.S. Women's soccer team for their display of dedication, sportsmanship and skill in the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup.

Abby Wambach grew up in Pittsford, NY in New York's 29th Congressional District. Her skill set earned her accolades from Umbro and the National Soccer Coaches Association of America following her senior season at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Rochester, NY.

Abby's 600 minutes of play in the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup was the most of any other participant and her four goals earned her the 'bronze boot'. Including her precision goal in the 104th minute of play in the finals, Abby's four goals were all made using her head, a skill that has defined her as a threat within the keeper's box.

I am proud of the hard work Abby Wambach and the United States Women's soccer team put forth in the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup and I await their continued growth as a team in preparation for the 2015 tournament in Canada.

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS REGARDING MATTHEW OLSEN'S NOMINATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit additional concerns about the President's nomination of Matthew Olsen to lead the National Counterterrorism Center.

During a May 7, 2009, Senate hearing, Attorney General Eric Holder said, "With regard to those you would describe as terrorists, we would not bring them into this country and release them, anyone we would consider to be a terrorist."

It is now well known from numerous press accounts, including Newsweek, The Washington Post, and National Journal, that the Obama Administration's Guantanamo Review Task Force, led by Matthew Olsen, recommended the transfer and release of at least two Uyghur detainees, who were members of a recognized terrorist group, to the United States in April 2009. The secret transfer was to take place on or around May 1, 2009.

The Uyghur detainees held at Guantanamo Bay are trained terrorists and members or associates of the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), a designated terrorist group affiliated with al Qaeda, as designated by both the U.S. government and the United Nations. Whether their intended victims were Chinese or Americans, a trained terrorist is a terrorist, under U.S. immigration law.

According to testimony and government documents, many of the Uyghur detainees have admitted to training at ETIM camps in Tora Bora under the direction of ETIM leader Abdul Haq prior to their capture by Pakistani authorities in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) of Pakistan.

By recommendation of the task force led by Mr. Olsen, the Uyghur detainees were to be secretly settled in an apartment in northern Virginia under an unknown immigration statute. The immigration status of these detainees remains one of the critical unknown questions surrounding this failed effort. A careful reading of U.S. immigration law shows a broad and strict ban on the entry of any member of a terrorist organization.

As a former special counselor to the attorney general, Mr. Olsen should have been well aware of the strict statutory restrictions that would bar the admission of any alien who is affiliated with a recognized terrorist organization into the U.S. As the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence considers Mr. Olsen's nomination to lead the National Counterterrorism Center, they should carefully consider his judgment in recommending the legally-questionable secret release of the Uyghur detainees into the U.S.

Under Title 8, Chapter 12 of U.S. Code on "Inadmissible Aliens," the law clearly and unconditionally bars a member, representative or associate of a recognized terrorist organization from receiving any sort of visa, refugee or asylum to the U.S. The law prohibits entry to the U.S. for any individual who has "engaged in a terrorist activity" or is "a representative of a terrorist organization," "a political, social, or other group that endorses or espouses terrorist activity," "is a member of a terrorist organization," "endorses or espouses terrorist

activity or persuades others to endorse or espouse terrorist activity or support a terrorist organization," or "has received military-type training from or on behalf of any organization that, at the time the training was received, was a terrorist organization."

The only limited exception to this strict ban is for the attorney general to exercise "parole" status into the U.S. for a limited amount of time in the case of "significant public benefit." If this option were to be exercised, it would conflict with the administration's stated intent to permanently settle the Uyghur detainees in the U.S. It also would raise serious questions about whether the task force, led by Mr. Olsen, recommended the settlement of terrorist detainees would have "significant public benefit."

The ETIM is a terrorist group that uses violence against civilians for the creation of an independent, Islamic state—in the image of the Taliban's Afghanistan—in the Xinjiang region of China. The group is linked to a number of terrorist attacks in China during the mid-1990s, including several bus bombings that killed dozens and injured hundreds of innocent civilians, as well as threats of attacks against the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Over the past decade, the group has predominantly operated out of Afghanistan and Pakistan and has developed close links with al Qaeda and the Taliban.

On August 19, 2002, then Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage designated the ETIM as "a terrorist group that committed acts of violence against unarmed civilians." The group was designated by the State Department under Executive Order 13224, "Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With Persons Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism," which defines terrorist as "activity that (1) involves a violent act or act dangerous to human life, property, or infrastructure; and (2) appears to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, kidnapping, or hostage-taking." In 2004, the State Department further added the ETIM to the "Terrorist Exclusion List" (TEL) under section 411 of the USA Patriot Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-56), which prohibits members of designated terrorist groups from entering into the U.S.

Later in 2002, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing reported that two members of the ETIM were deported from Kyrgyzstan after allegedly plotting to attack the U.S. embassy there. Following the attempted attack, the U.S., Peoples Republic of China, Afghanistan, and Kyrgyzstan asked the United Nations to designate the ETIM as a terrorist group under Security Council resolutions 1267 and 1390, which provide for the freezing of the group's assets.

In April 2009—the same month the release of the Uyghur detainees was being planned—the Obama Administration added the current leader of the ETIM (also recognized as the ETIP), Abdul Haq, to terrorist lists under Executive Order 13224, following U.N. recognition of Haq, under Security Council Resolution 1267, as an individual affiliated with Osama bin Laden, al Qaeda, or the Taliban. According to Stuart Levey, Treasury under secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, "Abdul Haq commands a terror group that

sought to sow violence and fracture international unity at the 2008 Olympic Games in China."

The ETIM's relationship with al Qaeda has grown since it was invited by the Taliban to conduct training in Afghanistan in the late 1990s, followed by the move of the ETIM headquarters from the Xianjiang region to Kabul in September 1998.⁹ By 2005, Abdul Haq had been admitted to al Qaeda's "Shura Council and on November 16, 2008, an al Qaeda spokesman "stated that a Chinese citizen named 'Abdul Haq Turkistani' was appointed by Osama bin Laden as the leader of two organizations—'al Qaeda in China' and 'Hizbul Islam Li-Turkistan.'" This appointment was also confirmed by Abu Sulieman, a member of al Qaeda.

It is abundantly clear that the Uyghur detainees held at Guantanamo Bay are affiliated with the ETIM and trained under Abdul Haq in 2001. According to the detainees' sworn statement to U.S. authorities, many acknowledged that they had trained in an ETIM training camp in Tora Bora from June to November 2001 and at least one confirmed, "The person running the camp was named Abdul Haq."

Following the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in fall 2001 cooperation between the ETIM and the Taliban increased. It is reported that the ETIM's leader prior to Abdul Haq, Hasan Mahsum, "led his men to support Taliban and fight alongside them against U.S. and the coalition forces. On 2 October 2003, Hasan Mahsum was killed, along with 8 other Islamic militants, by a Pakistani army raid on an al Qaeda hideout in South Waziristan area in Pakistan."

Additionally, a January 2008 al Qaeda in Afghanistan publication, "Martyrs in Time of Alienation," identified 120 "martyrs"—including five Uyghurs from Xianjiang and who trained in Tora Bora—who fought with the Taliban in Afghanistan against U.S. troops. One is reported to have been killed fighting U.S. forces during the invasion in 2001. Hasan Mahsum confirmed, prior to his death in 2003, that ETIM members trained and fought with al Qaeda forces in Afghanistan.

In addition to their affiliation in a designated terrorist organization and association with al Qaeda leader Abdul Haq, these detainees fervently believe in the creation of a Taliban-style Islamist state in northwestern China and do not share American values of respect, tolerance, and religious pluralism. In fact, one recent press account stated that, "Not long after being granted access to TV [at Guantanamo], some of the [Uighurs] were watching a soccer game. When a woman with bare arms was shown on the screen, one of the group grabbed the television and threw it to the ground, according to the officials."

Reports indicate that the ETIM's philosophy has dramatically evolved as a result of their training and cooperation with al Qaeda and the Taliban over the last decade. According to two experts, Rohan Gunaratna and Arabinda Acharya, "In the post-9/11 era, ETIM began to believe in the global jihad agenda. Today, the group follows the philosophy of al-Qaeda and respects Osama bin Laden. Such groups that believe in the global jihad do not confine their targets to the territories that they seek to control . . . [The ETIM] is presenting a threat to Chinese as well as Western targets worldwide."

Although the Uyghur detainees may not have been considered "enemy combatants" by the Obama Administration, U.S. immigration law clearly bars the admission of members of recognized terrorist groups. The Senate should carefully consider the legal steps that Mr. Olsen and his task force recommended be used to bring the ETIM detainees into the U.S. for permanent settlement. If his task force advocated exploiting limited "parole" entry for the detainees with the intended goal of permanent settlement, it would go against the letter and spirit of the law.

THE LANDING OF "ATLANTIS"

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, today is a bitter-sweet day for Florida's Space Coast, for the space program, and for the Nation. As *Atlantis* touched down at 5:57 a.m. today, July 21, 2011, at Kennedy Space Center, another era of exploration closed.

Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral have been the center of America's human space flight program since its inception. Nearly every manned mission has launched from Florida's Space Coast. The Shuttle program is no different. Every Shuttle mission has been processed, assembled, and launched by the talented and dedicated men and women at Kennedy Space Center.

Just as Kennedy Space Center has been an important part of the Shuttle Program, the Shuttle Program has been an essential part of Florida's identity, so much so that it was featured on our State's quarter. From the rumble of the Shuttle lifting off, to the sonic boom felt as the Shuttle traverses Florida on its way to land at Kennedy after another accomplished mission, the Shuttle is a part of Central Florida's culture.

Space Coast residents have cheered the successes the Shuttle Program has seen in its 30 years of service to our Nation: ferrying astronauts, modules, components, and experiments to the International Space Station; launching and repairing numerous satellites including the Hubble; launching three interplanetary probes; and advancing scientific experimentation including microgravity research. After all, the citizens of the Space Coast working at Kennedy Space Center helped make these successes possible.

Our community grieved deeply when, as President Ronald Reagan said, the *Challenger* astronauts "slipped the surly bonds of this Earth," to "touch the face of God," on January 28, 1986, and when the Shuttle *Columbia* failed to make it home on February 1, 2003. The entire Nation wept for the loss of these heroes, but the Space Coast mourned these brave men and women as family.

As we welcome *Atlantis* home for the last time, I would especially like to applaud all of our Shuttle workers from United Space Alliance and other contractors who did the work necessary to keep the Shuttles flying for 30 great years. It is their hard work and dedication that made these missions possible. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to each and every one of them on this historic, but bittersweet day.